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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

SUBJECT Estonian Executions and Deportations During the First Soviet Occupation

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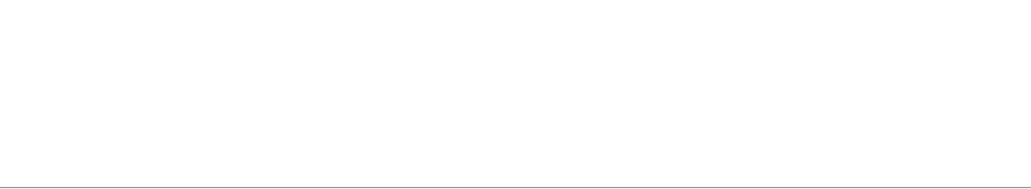
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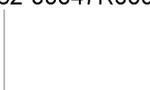


1. After the German occupation of Estonia in 1941 Estonians were informed of the executions of numerous Estonian fellow-citizens which had been committed by the Soviets during their occupation of 1940 - 1941. It was impossible to ascertain the exact number of those killed although estimates of Estonians murdered near Tallin ran from six to 12 thousand, and Tallin was but the locale of one execution area. Most of the Estonians who were executed had been members of democratic organizations or of the Estonian home guard. My impression was that the Soviets had endeavored to kill all Estonians who had any influence in the cities, towns or in the Parliament. I had also heard that a number of pastors had been slain.
2. One execution ground was reported to have been six to seven miles east of Tallin while other areas were at Tartu and at Petseri [Pechory], which was near the USSR border. The bodies of those executed at Tallin and at Tartu were generally buried in mass graves. At Petseri the victims were buried in numerous graves which contained from 12 to 13 corpses.
3. Most of the killings occurred in August and September of 1940, which was the period when the Estonian Communists first took over the government. The executions were reported to have been committed under orders of the Estonian Politburo which was under the direction of Soviet authorities. I have heard numerous reports that the actual killings were done by Soviet soldiers and members of the NKVD.
4. On one night, 13 Jun 41, 60 thousand Estonians were deported to the USSR by the Soviet occupation forces. Those deported were from all classes and included farmers, business, professional people and others. Whole families were taken and then separated at the borders of Soviet Russia, with most being shipped separately to Siberia where they were placed in labor camps. From my community alone five members of my church committee, together with their families, were deported. My information as to the separation of the families and the subsequent transportation to Siberia came in correspondence I received from a pastor acquaintance who had escaped from a camp in Siberia.

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5. Orders for the deportation movement, from what I have heard, came from the USSR through Tallin. Local orders were directed to stationmasters throughout Estonia and were posted on the railroad stations. All of the signatures on the orders were of Russian names. The stationmasters were instructed to order so many trains and wagons for their respective stations. After the wagons were loaded with deportees the stationmasters were then required to complete a form by inserting the number of people loaded into the various wagons and the number of wagons in each train.
6. Those deported had no advance notice and individuals who had time to collect their possessions, such as shoes, jewelry and tools, were not allowed to keep these articles when they entered the USSR. When the deportations occurred Soviet soldiers were stationed at all the depots and also were used to round up the Estonians who were deported. My brother-in-law told me afterwards that a Soviet soldier had asked him as to the whereabouts of a number of Estonians who were on a list he had and that these individuals were never seen again.
7. Following the mass deportations of 13 Jun 41 most of the remaining Estonians fled their homes and lived in the forests. As a result there were no further large population movements to the USSR.

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